

**Comments on texts resulting from the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission Report –
January 2005 Meeting
Submitted by the United States of America**

Guidelines for the Slaughter of Animals for Human Consumption

Article 1

General principles for slaughter Animal behavior

Paragraph 3:

Suggested proposed text:

Domestic animals will try to escape if an animal handler approaches closer than a certain distance. This critical distance, which defines the flight zone, varies among species and individuals of the same species, and depends upon previous contact with humans. Animals reared in close proximity to humans i.e. tame **may have a small** ~~have no~~ flight zone, whereas those kept in free range or extensive systems may have flight zones which may vary from one metre to many metres. Animal handlers should avoid sudden penetration of the flight zone which may cause a panic reaction which could lead to aggression or attempted escape.

Comment/Rationale:

A reference is made that animals raised in close proximity to humans i.e. tame animals do not have a flight zone. It seems appropriate that every animal have a flight zone, although that zone may be smaller for animals with early and frequent exposure to human handlers. Therefore, we recommend the text should be changed to reflect that all animals have a flight zone.

Article 5

Management of foetuses during slaughter of pregnant animals

Bullet 4:

Suggested proposed text:

If there is any doubt about consciousness, the foetus should be killed with **an appropriate** size captive bolt or a blow to the head with a suitable blunt instrument.

Comment/Rationale:

There should be captive bolt equipment available of the appropriate size that may be used safely on fetuses

Article 8

Summary of acceptable stunning methods and the associated animal welfare issues

Current proposed text:

Electrical	Split application: 1. across head then head to chest; 2. across head then across chest	Accidental pre-stun electric shocks; electrode positioning; application of a current to the body while animal conscious; inadequate current and voltage	Competent operation and maintenance of equipment; restraint; accuracy	Cattle, calves, sheep, goats and pigs, ratites and poultry	Systems involving repeated application of head-only or head-to-leg with short current durations (<1 second) in the first application should not be used. Where cardiac arrest occurs, the carcass may not be suitable for Halal
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Comment/Rationale

The comment box for “electrical” indicates that “Where cardiac arrest occurs, the carcass may not be suitable for Halal.” It is not clear if this is also not acceptable for Kosher? If not, then Kosher should also be referenced in the comment box.